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WIRKSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1940

WIRKSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1940.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the Year 1940.

Wirksworth is a market town in the centre of an agricultural area, which is largely milk-producing. It is situated on limestone and limestone quarrying forms one of the principal industries of the place. Tape-weaving is another industry, and three mills afford employment of this description.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres), 4,015.
Population: Census (1939), 4,822, Estimated Resident Population, 4,800.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,440.
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1,443.
This figure is now variable owing to the influx of evacuees etc.
Rateable Value, £21,487.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £82.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

As will be seen from the following statistical figures the infantile death rate is rather a high one, and is accounted for by the large percentage of Influenzal Pneumonia in very young infants, mostly under six months of age. As will be seen also, two cases were Still Births.

			Total	Males	Females
Live Births	Legitimate	57	62	31	31
	Illegitimate	5			
Still Births	Legitimate	1	2	0	2
	Illegitimate	1			

Birth Rate - - 12.9

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	63	35	28

Death Rate - - 13.1

No. of Women dying in/or in consequence of childbirth -
From Sepsis - 0. From other causes - 0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-
Total - 9. Legitimate - 7. Illegitimate - 2.
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births - 123.

England and Wales - Infantile Death Rate ..... 55.
Birth Rate 14.6
Death Rate 14.3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 6
" " Measles (all ages) 0
" " Whooping Cough 0
" " Diarrhœa (under two years of age) 0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1					
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35		1				1		
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No notifications of Tuberculosis have been received in respect of those engaged in the Milk Trade, and no action has been required.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been taken under this section during 1940.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be satisfactory.

Other Infectious Diseases notified (other than Tuberculosis) are shown in the following table:-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	1	0
Diptheria	4	4	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Pneumonia	16	7	6
Measles	237	0	0
Chickenpox	55	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myelitis.	0	0	0

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision.	Deaths.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The Scheme for prophylactic inoculation against Diphtheria was adopted at the end of this year, and will be put into operation early in 1941.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITALS.

A Cottage Hospital in the town, which is dependent largely on voluntary subscriptions, affords in-patient and out-patient treatment. Provision is also made for Maternity cases. This Hospital now participates in the Derbyshire Hospitals' Contributory Association.

The Royal Infirmary, Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital, Derby, are all included in the Derbyshire Hospitals' Contributory Association.

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1. Professional Nursing in the Home.
   (a) General - None.
   (b) Infectious Diseases - None.

2. Midwife.
   (a) One practising privately.
   (b) One under the supervision of the County Authority.

3. Clinics and Treatment Centres.
   (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Matlock provided by and under the control of the Derbyshire County Council.
   (b) Day Nurseries - None.
   (c) School Clinics at the Elementary Schools in Wirksworth provided by the Derbyshire County Council.
   (d) Tuberculosis at the Tuberculosis Department, New County Offices, Derby, and also at the Tuberculosis Clinic, Matlock, provided by the Derbyshire Council.
   (e) Venereal Disease at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

4. Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.
   (a) Tuberculosis - Derbyshire Sanitorium, outside the district provided by the County Council.
   (b) Maternity - Accommodation is provided at the Cottage Hospital.
   (c) Children - None.
   (d) Fever - Heage Isolation, outside the District, to which the Local Authority contributes its share.
   (e) Smallpox - Heage Isolation, outside the District.

5. Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children, and Homeless Children - None.

6. Ambulance Facilities.
   (a) For infectious cases, provided by the Heage Isolation Hospital.
   (b) For non-infectious and accident cases.
      (i) St. John Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.
      (ii) Matlock Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.
      (iii) Wirksworth Motor Ambulance stationed at Wirksworth.

LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made by the County Council Bacteriological Department.

Number of Specimens sent to the County Laboratory by private practitioners during 1940:-

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	4	11	15
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Phthisis	1	2	3
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	13	18

The Local Authority provides Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin free of cost. A supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, who renders an account of its use to the Local Authority.

The following quantities were issued during 1940;-

Diphtheria Antitoxin - 8 vials, each containing 4,000 units.

Tetanus Antitoxin - 2.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	6th December, 1893.
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III. (subject to certain conditions as to Sects. 35 & 38	20th December, 1902.
Order L.G.B. No. 59992, of 22nd January, 1913)	5th March, 1913
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (subject to certain conditions as to Sects. 25, 27 & 30 Order L.G.B. No. 63662, 29th May, 1915)	12th July, 1915.

Bye-laws:-

New Streets and Buildings	- 1939
Common Lodging-Houses	- 1879
Nuisances	- 1879
Cleaning Footways, Removal of House Refuse, & Cleaning Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools	- 1879

Shops Acts, 1912-28	25th August, 1930
do. 1934	26th November, 1934
Offensive Trades Order of L.G.B., No. 63721, of 18th June, 1915, confirming Council's Order of 26th April, 1915, containing list of offensive trades	26th April, 1915
Chicken Pox Compulsory Notification Order for Compulsory notification	22nd February, 1926
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to IV., except Sections 21, 22 and 44	2nd May, 1927

Shops Acts 1934, came into operation by adoption 1936.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Both the Wigwell and Dunsley supplies of water have proved satisfactory throughout the year, and with the original sources, there has been ample water of good quality for all purposes. The old earthenware pipes on the Wirksworth collecting ground have been replaced by spun steel pipes and the pipe line is now satisfactory. Bolehill has also been connected up to the Wigwell Supply, thereby assuring a water supply to houses in the highest part of this district. Water supplies are being chlorinated as a precautionary measure.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage system is being examined by Messrs. Elliott & Brown, Consulting Engineers, Nottingham, following a representation of the Ilkeston & Heanor Waterworks Board, that such sewerage system contacts with the Meerbrook Sough and pollutes their water supply, a full report of which the surveyor rendered the Council in March, 1940.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In connection with the above alleged pollution, it has been found that several properties are directly connected to the Hannage Brook, and that the waters of this brook gain access to the Meerbrook Sough. An early disconnection of these properties is recommended. The Sanitary Inspector served 200 notices for conversion or disconnection of properties suspected of polluting the sough waters, but the greater proportion of the notices produced no action.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This is carried out in the entire district by annual contract. It has proved unsatisfactory and I again recommend it be done by district labour.

The whole of the refuse should be disposed of on the Gorsey Bank and Hopton Wood Tips, with the exception of the contents of pail closets which should be taken to the Sewage Farm.

The contract system of scavenging appears to be a complete failure. Every year I have cause to complain of its non-hygienic aspect, but this year stands unique in the number of complaints received and apparently not attended to, even after the contractor's attention has been drawn to same. The contractor, it is reported, does not carry out the systematic rota system of scavenging as continually directed by the Surveyor.

Whilst it is cheaper to execute by contract, it is worth spending more to execute in a proper manner. The present standard of scavenging can only be a menace to public health.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

Fifteen privy-middens have this year been converted to W.C's. During the forthcoming year, I suggest that this work be accelerated as circumstances will allow.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the schools, which were in some cases, last year, not up to standard, have now been improved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk, meat and other foods have been kept under supervision throughout the year, and found generally satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Building has been in abeyance owing to the War. It is perhaps a pity that some of the houses, proposed in the Derby Road Site, and mentioned in the 1938 report, were not built before war conditions made it impossible. This would have alleviated considerable distress in the older cottages of the town, and over-crowding by evacuees from blitzed areas.

I should like to point out that for the greater part of the year under review, the Council were without a Sanitary Inspector. It is therefore regretted that the Sanitary statistics are, on this account, somewhat lacking.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W.S.G. CHRISTIE.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Sanitary Inspector:
Charles Frobisher, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.Inst.P., F.Inst.H.E., A.M.I.Struct.E., C.R.S.I., Chartered Engineer.

(1) No. of houses converted from Privy Middens, etc., to Water Closets during the year 1940 15.
No. of Privy Middens, etc., converted to Water Closets during the past nine years:-

Year -	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
No. -	35	8	9	31	19	7	13	11	15

(2) Approximate Number of Houses at 31st December with:

(a) Privy Middens	103
(b) Pail Closets	161
(c) Water Closets	1166
Total	1430

(3) Work of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:

Area of District, 4,015 acres.
Estimated No. of Houses inhabited 1,440.
New Houses erected 1940:
(a) By Local Authority)
(b) By Private Enterprise) Nil

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.	No. of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	No. of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
(a) Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (not for conversion)	24	6	6
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	10	4	4
(a) Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	12	2	2
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	-	-	-
Defective Water Closets	-	-	-
Provision of additional W.C.'s	2	1	1

(a) Provision of Portable Ashbins	30	8	8
Dirty Closets	-	-	-
DRAINAGE.			
(a) No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	-	-	-
(a) Defective Waste Pipe, Traps Inlets and Drains	14	6	5
Drains Obstructed	10	2	2
OTHER DEFECTS.			
(a) Paving of Courts and Yards	-	-	-
(a) Roofs, Eaves and Down-Spouts	-	-	-
(a) Sinks	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient Ventilation	-	-	-
(a) Windows	-	-	-
(a) Dampness	-	-	-
Water in Cellars	-	-	-
(a) Water Supply: Burst Pipes and Defective Taps	-	-	-
Foul condition of Houses	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-
Animals improperly kept	-	-	-
Pigstyes	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	-	-	-
Urinals	-	-	-
Nuisances not specified above	-	-	-

	Number on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.	71	-	-	-
Bakehouses	8	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	83	-	-	-

Infected Rooms Disinfected, 6. Method: Fumigation.

Sewage effluents taken quarterly by County Council.

Prosecutions, Particulars of: Sanitary defects.

Results of prosecution: None.

Food Seizures: Nil

Milk Samples Analysed Nil

Food Voluntarily Surrendered: nil.

Water Samples Analysed Nil

Other Action taken: Pamphlets issued to all Shopkeepers, Cowkeepers and Dairymen, of their obligations under the Inspective Acts.

(4) Inspection of places where food is prepared:

	Inspections made
(a) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	-
(b) Bakehouses	-
(c) Slaughter Houses	-
Total	-

(5) Number and condition of Slaughter Houses registered or licensed:

	1939
Registered	3
Licensed	1

The Slaughter Houses are kept clean and are lime-washed four times a year in accordance with Regulations, and offal regularly cleared.

(6) Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation and the extent of their use:

Upon the recovery of a patient from infectious disease, or the removal of a patient to hospital, the infected rooms are disinfected with Formalin Vapour, and if necessary, the clothing and bedding sent to Heage Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

(7) Action taken with regard to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:-

Every Cowkeeper, Dairyman and Purveyor of Milk in the district is registered, and their premises and utensils are kept under observation.

The number on the Registor is as follows:-

Retail Purveyors of Milk	34
Wholesale Traders and Producers	20
	54

(8) Action taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream regulations.

The Council is not a Local Authority under those Acts.

(9) Action taken with a view to Smoke Abatement:-

No cases were dealt with under this head during the year under review.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR ON FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

The following is a summary of the Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces on the Register in your District.

These premises have been kept under observation, and the respective sanitary condition of each has invariably been found satisfactory.

SUMMARY.

Factories -

Factory Bakehouses	5
Building Contractors	4
Tape Works	4
Stone Quarries	5
Whitesmiths	1
Total	19

Workshops -

Building Contractors	5
Painters, Decorators and Plumbers	8
Tin Plate Workers	1
Blacksmiths	2
Tailors	2
Wagon Repairers	2
Bootmakers	2
Boot Repairers	4
Cabinet Makers	3
Monumentalists	2
Dressmakers	5
Milliners	3
Watch Repairers	0
Cycle Repairers	3
Saddlers	1
Hairdressers	4
Bakehouses	6
Motor Repairers	3
Printers	3
Quarries	5
Total	64

Nuisances found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, and Remedied.

Want of Cleanliness	-
Want of Ventilation	-
Offensive Accumulations	-
Water Closets defective	-
Insanitary Privy Closets	-
Defective Traps	-
Foul Condition of Premises	-
Gas Plant emitting Noxious Fumes	-

PUBLIC SCAVENGING.

Public Scavenging is in operation in the whole District for the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Pail Closets, Ashpits, Ashbins, and Cesspools, and is carried out by contract, which has not proved satisfactory.

The whole of the refuse is contracted to be disposed upon the Gorsey Bank Tip and Hopton Wood Tip, with the exception of the contents of the Pail Closets, which should go to the Sewage Farm. This work has been carried out in a lax manner during the past year, the contractor not always disposing of refuse and night soil as directed by the Council.

CHARLES FROBISHER,

Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

W.S.G. CHRISTIE, M.B., Ch.B.,

Part time. Half Salary contributed.

Sanitary Inspector:

CHARLES FROBISHER

Part time. Half Salary contributed.
Engineer and Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council.

HOUSING.

No. of Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total - -
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme -

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... -

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... -

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..... -

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... -

(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... -

(4) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... -

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..... -

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A. - Proceedings under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ..... -
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..... -

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ..... -
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..... -

C. - Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... -

Housing Act, 1936:

Notices served under S. 11 ..... -
Ditto S. 9 ..... -

WATER SUPPLY DURING THE YEAR 1940.

1940	Rainfall.		Yield of Springs in Gallons per Hour.
Month	1940 Inches	1939 Inches	1940
January	7.69	6.21	5,822
February	2.72	2.38	5,280
March	2.12	2.46	8,267
April	1.87	3.57	6,532
May	2.05	1.41	4,900
June	.65	2.00	3,062
July	2.73	5.34	2,222
August	.34	2.11	1,981
September	1.66	2.20	1,765
October	3.35	5.10	1,649
November	8.67	6.20	4,721
December	1.76	3.22	8,502
	35.61	42.20	4,558

CHARLES FROBISHER,

Water Engineer and Surveyor.